

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENTIALCOUNTRY Czechoslovakia REPORT  
TOPIC Military Activity in PlzenEVALUATION  PLACE OBTAINED DATE OF CONTENT DATE OBTAINED  DATE PREPARED 18 August 1955

50X1-HUM

REFERENCES PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) REMARKS 

50X1-HUM

1. Prior to late April 1955, a motorized artillery unit was observed in the Artillerie-Kaserne northeast of the Bory convict camp. The prisoners of the camp always used to talk of an artillery regiment. In the fall of 1954, about 10 to 12 prisoners were detailed for work in the barracks. This fatigue detail was called "delostrelostvo veleni" (artillery detail) on the daily time-table. Officers and NCOs with artillery insignia were repeatedly observed after December 1953. Once, 12 guns were seen on the yard of the barracks, and it was repeatedly observed that soldiers trained with 4 to 6 unidentified guns, presumably 150 mm, consisting of split-trail gun carriage, pneumatic tire recessed solid wheels, muzzle brake and a gun shield angled on both sides; the length of the gun barrel from the muzzle to the gun shield was about 2.50 to 3 m.

The unit was stationed at a troop training ground in the Dobrany area (Dobrzan, N 50/L 03), in August and September 1954. In spring 1954, the unit received recruits. <sup>1</sup>

2. Prior to early May 1955, armored troops occupied barracks situated north of the Artillerie-Kaserne and separated from these barracks by the Kaptirova ulica. The soldiers of these troops wore khaki-colored uniforms, grey-green combinations and dark brown leather helmets, occasionally with tank insignia. About 10 to 12 tanks were observed in the barracks area, and twice about 6 to 8 tanks accompanied by trucks were seen leaving the barracks. The tanks had bogie wheels and no track supporting rollers, wedged noses, rotatable turrets, barrels suspended higher than a man's height and protruding 1.5 to 2 m over the front edge of the tank, and cylindrical containers on both sides of the rear. The tank unit also left for the training ground in the Dobrany area.

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL [REDACTED]

50X1-HUM

- 2 -

3. In the [REDACTED] the [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] the town. Civilians moved into these barracks before Christmas 1954. The troops formerly stationed in the barracks were transferred to an outer district of the town. 3

50X1-HUM

4. Motor vehicles loaded with gasoline containers were entering and leaving a fuel depot in the area 1 km west of the [REDACTED] camp and west of the road (N 50/L 0 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] were also seen there. The depot was apparently [REDACTED].

1. [REDACTED] Comment. The present report indicates that the Artillerie-Kaserne, also known as "Na Borech" barracks, was occupied by parts of an artillery regiment. Prior to this report only artillery of the 11th Rifle Div was presumed to be stationed in Plzen (Pilsen). An artillery division with 152 mm guns is reported for the first time. It remains to be seen whether the information was incorrect or whether the artillery pieces belonged to a corps or army artillery.

50X1-HUM

2. [REDACTED] Comment. Probably the Armed SP gun Regt of the 11th Rifle Div, listed in Plzen, is stationed in these barracks.

3. [REDACTED] Comment. The evacuation [REDACTED] the transfer of the infantry [REDACTED] first time.

4. [REDACTED] Comment. The fuel depot was previously known.

50X1-HUM

CONFIDENTIAL [REDACTED]

50X1-HUM